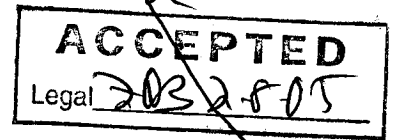


172710

~~PROTESTANT~~

William J. & Ann B. Shacker
123 Partridge Hill Drive
West Columbia, SC 29172
(803) 7550799



January 2, 2005

Chairman
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Attn: Docketing Department
P. O. Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

Mr. Scott Elliott
Elliott & Elliott, PA
721 Olive Street
Columbia, SC 29205

Gentlemen:

Re: Docket No. 2004-297-297-S
Account No. CH - 0087

Correspondence received from Midlands Utility, Inc. dated 11/16/04 refers to its application for an increase in rates that is both shocking and outrageous to the average homeowner. When we moved into our current residence in 1979, our household included my wife, my self and our son. Today, only my wife lives full time at this residence since my son has grown and moved on and I travel 3 weeks out of every month.

During this same time period, Midlands Utility has TRIPPLED its rates even while our actual usage has been cut by over 50%! Now Midlands Utility is proposing that its rates be increased by another 45%!

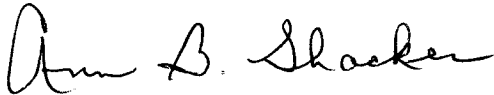
Because of my travels and my wife's current physical impairment, neither of us anticipate being able to attend the public hearing in this regard. However, we respectfully request to be notified of how we can have our comments included without being physically present at the hearing.

We are rapidly approaching that time in our lives when we will be forced to contend with living on a 'fixed income.' It is requested that an alternative rate schedule be included in the proposed rate increases since we have already contributed to Midlands Utility's capital growth and success on a regular basis for the past 25 years.

It is indeed a derogatory comment on our government and utilities when the aged component of society is forced to consider radical changes to their existence and quality of life after being productive members that society due to increases in its cost of living over which we have no choice nor control.

If nothing else, we respectfully requested that these comments and suggestion be included in both Midlands Utility's proposal and the Commissions' rulings, and we remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ann B. Shacker".

Ann B. Shacker

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William J. Shacker".

William J. Shacker

CC Chairman, Public Service Commission of South Carolina